

Message Text

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64

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /098 W
----- 065979

P R 230845Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5068

INFO AMEMBASSY MASERU PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 0115

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PINT, LT, BC

SUBJECT: BASUTOLAND CONGRESS PARTY OFFICIALS TURN UP
IN BOTSWANA

1. BBC NEWS OF THE AFRICAN WORLD BROADCAST OF 22 JANUARY CARRIED STORY THAT TWO BASUTOLAND CONGRESS PARTY OFFICIALS ARE NOW IN BOTSWANA. BOTSWANA POLICE OFFICIAL HAS INFORMED EMBASSY THAT THREE BCP OFFICIALS: TSELISO MAKHAKHE, DEPUTY PARTY LEADER BCP; JOHN LIAU, BCP OFFICE EMPLOYEE; AND TIESANA MOFELEHETSI, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY BCP JUMPED THE FENCE AND ENTERED BOTSWANA FROM SOUTH AFRICA IN THE VICINITY OF SELEBI-PIKWE ON JANUARY 17. THE THREE ARE NOW IN GABORONE UNDER "POLICE PROTECTION". BOTSWANA OFFICIALS ALLEGEDLY ANXIOUS ARRANGE ONWARD TRANSPORT.

2. COMMENT: PRESENCE BCP LEADERS IN BOTSWANA CREATES SOMETHING OF A PROBLEM FOR GOB SINCE THERE IS SOME CONCERN THAT THEIR PRESENCE IN GABORONE, ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE FROM SOUTH AFRICAN BORDER, DOES NOT MAKE THEM IMMUNE FROM A POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING ATTEMPT. ALSO, IN VIEW OF IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN BOTSWANA AND LESOTHO,
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HIGHLIGHTED BY PRESIDENT KHAMA'S VISIT TO LESOTHO IN

OCTOBER, GOB MAY BE PUT UNDER SOME PRESSURE RETURN THE
THREE TO LESOTHO.
NELSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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